

# Agencies and Organizations Assisting Farmers

## MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES

28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333  
207-287-3871

### “get real. get maine!”

a promotional branding campaign, to increase public awareness of Maine products. **Division of Market and Production Development, 287-3491**

### Farmland Protection Program, 287-7520

### Ag Business Planning Assistance

- **Farms for the Future**, administered jointly with Coastal Enterprises Inc., provides farmers grants to develop and implement business plans. **Dept. 287-7520** and **287-7620, CEI 772-5356**
- **NxLevel Business Planning**, coordinated by NRCS Heart of Maine Resource Conservation and Development Council, 368-4433
- **Food and Farms Resource Guide**—*Handbook for Maine Agricultural Businesses* provides farmers information on various agricultural subjects and programs, **287-3491**

### Ag Business Loans and Grants

- Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund
- Potato Marketing Improvement Fund
- Agricultural Development Grant
- Agricultural Technical Assistance Grant Program
- Agricultural Water Source Development Cost Share Program

### MAINE FARM BUREAU

A non-governmental, voluntary organization whose mission it is to analyze economic and public problems surrounding agriculture in Maine. Augusta, **622-4111**

### MAINE FARM CREDIT

Specializes in lending to Maine’s agricultural, fishing and forest products industries. Aroostook Regional Office, Presque Isle, **764-6431**; or Southern Regional Office, Auburn, **784-0193**

## MAINE FARMLAND TRUST

A membership-based, non-profit organization working in the public’s interest to protect Maine’s precious farmland resources. Bucksport, **469-6465**

## MAINE FARMLINK

A farm transfer program that connects farmers seeking farmland with retiring Maine farmers and farm owners who wish to see their agricultural lands remain active. Currently there are 35 prospective sellers and 67 prospective buyers statewide with 32 prospects in Waldo County. Freedom, **382-3255**

## MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Developed from a loose affiliation of farmers and gardeners committed to growing healthy, chemical free food, to an internationally recognized advocate for food production that enhances and protects the ecological as well as economic vitality of rural communities. Unity, **568-4142**

## MAINE WOMEN’S AGRICULTURAL NETWORK

A collaborative effort of farmers, agriculture and related non-profit, for profit and governmental agencies seeking to help women and other underserved individuals find the skills necessary to begin or continue farming profitably. Lisbon Falls, **800-287-1458**

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Assists farmers, landowners and communities with conserving and protecting natural resources. Each District works in partnership with the **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**, **USDA Farm Service Agency** and other federal, state and local agencies, including the **NRCS–Resource Conservation and Development Council**. Belfast, **338-1964**

## UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A major educational outreach program of the University of Maine with offices statewide. Belfast, **800-287-1426** or statewide **800-287-0274**

## Web Links

United States Department of Agriculture  
**www.usda.gov**

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
**www.nrcs.usda.gov**

Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources  
**www.maine.gov/argiculture/**

“get real. get maine!”  
**www.getrealmaine.com**

Maine State Web Portal  
**www.maine.gov**

Maine Food and Farms Resource Guide  
**www.getrealmaine.com/connect/**

## References

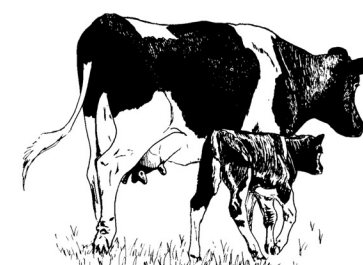
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service  
USDA Farm Service Agency  
Maine Revenue Service

# Waldo County

## 2003-2004 COUNTY PROFILE OF MAINE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

Maine’s agricultural future is inextricably linked to its ability to continue to build strong, long-lasting connections between farmers and the communities they serve. To help all citizens better understand how agriculture is connected to every aspect of life in Maine, this county profile provides citizens, community planners and natural resource conservation groups important facts about farmers, farms, farmland and agricultural enterprises in Waldo County.

## Farmers in Waldo County



	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
Farming as Principal Occupation	344	322	277	186	173
Male Operators (N)	NA	441	432	304	269
Female Operators (N)	NA	29	33	35	46
Average Age	51	50	50	53	55

*\*USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

Statewide, farming has a unique connection to the history of Maine. Farmers are stewards of the land; well-managed farmland protects natural resources and creates beautiful open space. Many of Maine’s first settlers were farmers whose fields, farmhouses and barns shaped Maine’s historic landscape. Today, Maine’s agricultural producers and processors annually contribute over 1.2 billion dollars to Maine’s economy and employ 65,000 Maine people!

## Waldo County Farmland

	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
Number of Farms	446	470	465	339	315
Total Acres (A)	92,650	94,514	90,463	71,890	68,569
Average Farm Size (A)	208	201	195	212	218
Total Cropland (A)	31,396	32,455	30,824	29,036	28,338
Total Pasture (A)	NA	14,415	13,229	9,957	9,302
Total Orchard (A)	187	200	248	276	102
Total Berry (A)	529	552	800	1,318	NA
Total Hay (A)	16,476	19,410	19,195	17,658	18,784
Total Woodland (A)	49,415	53,561	50,647	37,670	34,878

*\*USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

*Land in farms decreased 5 percent from 71,890 acres in 1992 to 68,569 acres in 1997.*

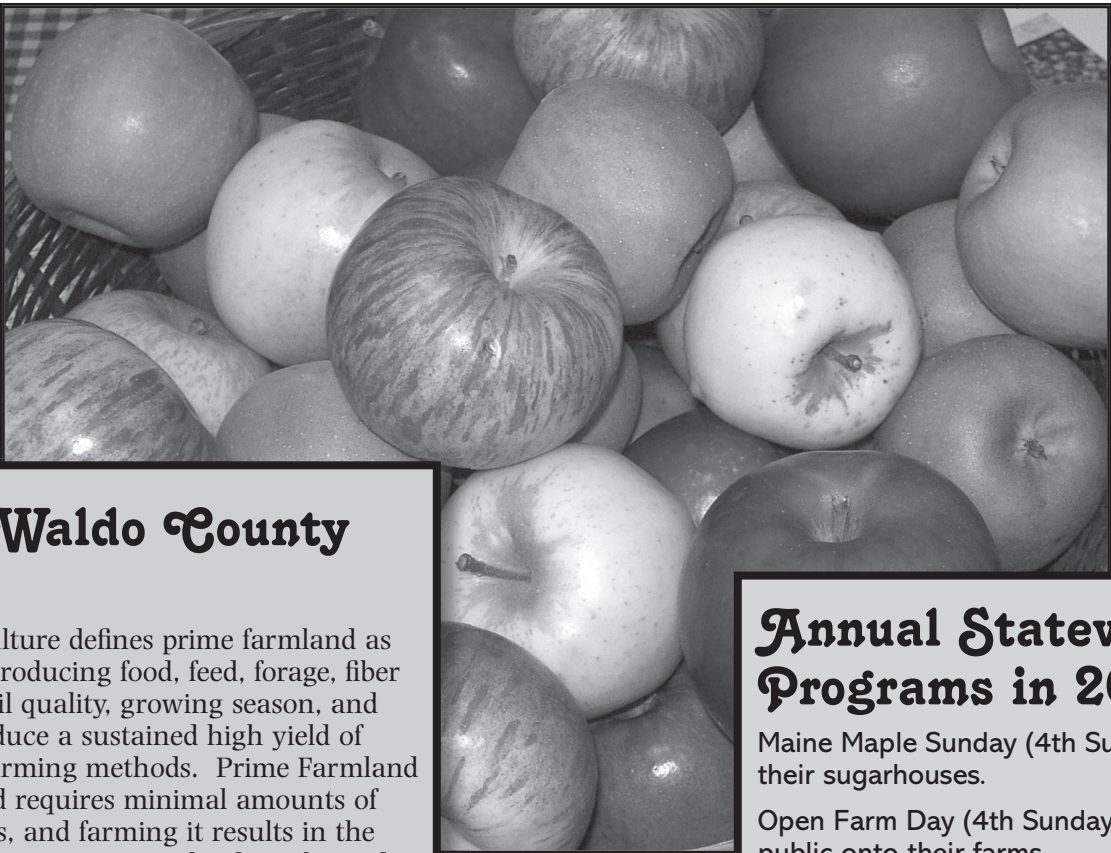


November  
2003



Unique to Waldo County

- There are 11 granges in the county. **County Grange**, Richard Banker, Master, 568-3482.
- County Chapter **Maine Farm Bureau**, President, David Doak, Monroe, 525-4431
- **Community Groups and Land Trusts**  
*Unity Barn Raisers; Sebasticook Land Trust; Friends of Unity Wetlands; Friends of Lake Winnecook*
- The **State Historic Preservation Office** (287-2132) and **Maine Preservation** (775-7737) have information regarding the county's agriculturally related places of historic and cultural significance.



Food, Farms\* and Fairs in Waldo County

- 42 Farmstands/Nurseries/Greenhouses open to the public
- 5 Farmers' Markets serving multiple communities
- 3 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farms contract directly with their customers who pay a fixed price in advance for fresh produce throughout the season
- 9 Farms offer Pick Your Own fruits and vegetables
- 14 Farms host special on-farm events and activities such as pumpkin hunts, animal viewing, hayrides and school programs
- 2 Agriculture Fairs (Common Ground, Unity) drew up to 86,000 people in 2002

*\* Some farms may be counted in multiple categories. Not all farm activities and retail services are listed here.*



Prime Soils in Waldo County

PRIME FARMLAND

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines prime farmland as the land that is best suited to producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce a sustained high yield of crops while using acceptable farming methods. Prime Farmland produces the highest yields and requires minimal amounts of energy and economic resources, and farming it results in the least damage to the environment. Prime Farmland is a limited strategic resource. No more of it is being created.

44,190 acres (estimated)

SOILS OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE

This is land, in addition to prime and unique farmlands, that is of statewide significance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Criteria for defining and delineating this land are to be determined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Generally, additional farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce a high yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable.

104,151 acres (estimated)

Farmland Protected in Waldo County

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

- 556 acres (4 farms) have been protected by 3 nonprofit organizations

TEMPORARILY PROTECTED

Maine Dept. of Agriculture

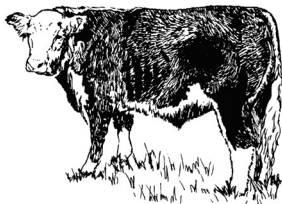
- 1,073 acres protected through Farms for the Future (5 years)

Enrolled in Farm and Open Space Tax Program

- 9,752 acres farmland in 2002 - 4,421 acres cropland plus 5,289 acres woodland
- 1,279 acres open space in 2001

Enrolled in Tree Growth Program

- 54,501 acres in 2001



Waldo County Agricultural Sales

	1974	1978	1982	1992	1997
All crops	\$1,281,000	\$1,257,000	\$1,850,000	\$2,796,000	\$2,540,000
Livestock/poultry and their products	\$28,813,000	\$46,202,000	\$34,681,000	\$14,336,000	\$12,229,000
Nursery and greenhouse products	\$106,000	\$130,000	\$185,000	\$541,000	\$1,211,000
Fruits, nuts and berries	NA	\$393,000	\$723,000	\$1,511,000	\$650,000

*\*USDA/Dept. of Commerce, Agriculture Census 1974-1997*

*Statewide market research in 2002 showed that 89 percent surveyed believe that buying locally grown food strengthens Maine's economy.*